FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) State-wise information in respect of the number of bank robberies/dacoities and amounts involved therein during the years 1985, 1986, 1987 and 1988 (upto 30-6-1988) is given in the attached Statement. [See Appendix CXLVII. Annexure No. 36-A].

(c) Banks have been taking steps to improve their security arrangements so as to offer little inductment to miscreants to rob banks and also to deter them from such attempts. As this is a continuous process, security measures implemented by public sector banks are being reviewed from time to time and whenever further improvements are considered necessary, requisite guidelines/instructions are given to the banks. Depending on the risk factor involved, steps have been taken to appoint security guards, instal appropriate alarm systems, etc. in branches. Since apprehension of the culprits concerned is the most important deterrent, State Governments/Union Territory Administrations have also been requested to make all out efforts to arrest the culprits. Further, in order to motivate bank employees, the general public and the police to resist robbers/dacoits, a scheme of rewards has been announced. However, the impact of these steps, to a considerable extent, depedns on the general security environment in the locality in which the bank's branch/office is located.

Forest Development Programme in Andhra Pradesh

712. SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Andhra Pradesh Government has sent a scheme for certification, grading and storage of seeds of forest species to take up a massive forest development programme; and

(b) if so, whether the Central Government have approved the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) and (b) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme for collection, certification, grading and storage of forest seeds is being formulated. In this connection, the Forest Departments of all States and Union Territories were requested to send their suggestions and requirements. In response, the Andhra Pradesh Forest Department has furnished details of requirements of trained staff, equipment and other infrastructural facilities, costing Rs. 40 lakhs over a period of five years. This requirement will be kept in view when finalising the Centrally Sponsored Scheme.

Inflation Rate

713. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased state:

(a) whether it is a fact that inflation touched an alarming double digit figure in 25 cities in October, 1987;

(b) if so, what are the city-wise details thereof; and

(c) what was the corresponding figure during October, 1986, city-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) The All India Consumer Price Index of Industrial Workers is the weighted average of 50 Industrial Centres. The annual inflation rate in October, 1987 in terms of CPI was 9.5 per cent. While 25 centres recorded a higher than the average rate of inflation, remaining 25 experienced a lower inflation rate as may be seen from the annexed Table.